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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/626,965	07/27/2000	Tadashi Ohashi	1341.1055/JDH	1019

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EXAMINER	
COLAN, GIOVANNA B	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2162	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/29/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/626,965	OHASHI, TADASHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Giovanna Colan	2162	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *27 April 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-11 and 14-16* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1,2,4-11 and 14-16* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *05/09/06*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is issued in response to applicant filed request for continued examination (RCE) on 04/27/2006.

2. Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 11 have been amended. No claims were added. Claims 3, 12, 13, and 17 were canceled.

3. Claims 1 – 2, 4 – 11, and 14 – 16 are pending in this application.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 2, 4 – 11, and 14 – 16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 05/09/2005.The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

5. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/11/2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 1 – 2, 4 – 11, and 14 – 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Van Huben et al. (Van Huben hereinafter) (US Patent No. 5,826,265, filed: December 6, 1998) in view of Call (US Patent No. 6,154,738, filed: May 21, 1999).

Regarding Claim 1, Van Huben discloses a component management system comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database, each hardware and firmware related electronic information component being electronic information generated during processes including design, development, manufacture, and inspection, of a product (Fig. 101, and 102, Col. 1, 6, and 7, and 13, lines 21 – 26, 64 – 67, 1 – 3, and 30 – 42; respectively, Van Huben),

wherein the hardware and firmware related electronic information components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract for the product, as the electronic information (Fig. 102, Col. 17 and 18, lines 65 – 67 and 1 – 16; respectively, "it resumes at the same Engineering Level (not the lowest level) in the previous version", Van Huben),

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the design, development, manufacture, and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure (Col. 21, lines 3 – 10, Van Huben) in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware and firmware electronic information

components and added to each hardware and firmware electronic information component (Col. 26 and 28, lines 34 – 41 and 15 – 26; respectively, Van Huben),

Van Huben also discloses said storage unit stores meta-information (Col. 13, lines 30 - 42, Van Huben) and expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components (Col. 21, lines 3 – 10, Van Huben). However, Van Huben does not explicitly disclose that the meta-information is stored according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data. On the other hand, Call discloses storing meta-information according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components (Col. 25, lines 25 – 34, Call). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the Call's teachings to the system Van Huben. Skilled artisan would have been motivated to do so, as suggested by Call (Col. 25, lines 25 – 34, Call), to provide an extensible system for dividing product and company information into a hierarchy of nested named elements which can be selectively accessed; and to facilitated the definition and validation of data structures to be used on various classes of products. In addition, both of the references (Van Huben and Call) teach features that are directed to analogous art and they are directed to the same field of endeavor, such as, databases management systems, storing product information, and hierarchically storing. This close relation between both of the references highly suggests an expectation of success.

Furthermore, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses:

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting said product are at a same management level (Col. 18, lines 9 – 16, Van Huben);

a server which manages the hardware and firmware component knowledge database stored in said storage unit (Col. 6 and 7, lines 58 – 61 and 8 – 16; respectively, Van Huben); and

at least one client, which is connected to said server via a network, and accesses a desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component from said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta-information (Col. 6, lines 58 – 61, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 2, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component management device comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database, each hardware and firmware related electronic information component being electronic information generated during processes including design, development, manufacture, and inspection, of a product (Fig. 101, and 102, Col. 1, 6, and 7, and 13, lines 21 – 26, 64 – 67, 1 – 3, and 30 – 42; respectively, Van Huben),

wherein the hardware and firmware related electronic information components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a

firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract for the product, as the electronic information (Fig. 102, Col. 17 and 18, lines 65 – 67 and 1 – 16; respectively, "it resumes at the same Engineering Level (not the lowest level) in the previous version", Van Huben),

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the design, development, manufacture, and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure (Col. 21, lines 3 – 10, Van Huben) in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware and firmware electronic information components and added to each hardware and firmware electronic information component (Col. 26 and 28, lines 34 – 41 and 15 – 26; respectively, Van Huben),

wherein said storage unit stores meta-information according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components (Col. 13 and 21, lines 30 – 42 and 3 – 10; respectively, Van Huben; and Col. 25, lines 25 – 34, Call), and

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting said product are at a same management level (Col. 18, lines 9 – 16, Van Huben);

a management unit managing the hardware and firmware component knowledge database by controlling a process of a client accessing a desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component from said hardware and firmware

related electronic information components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta-information (Col. 6 and 7, lines 58 – 61 and 8 – 16; respectively, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 4, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component management device, wherein the meta-information comprises access limiting information related to permission/non-permission of access to each hardware and firmware related electronic information component, and wherein said client accesses the desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component based on the access limiting information only when said client gets permission (Col. 15, lines 6 – 20, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 5, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component management device, wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information component comprises patch information for automatically performing a patch processing to an applicable firmware, and wherein said client performs the patch processing to the applicable firmware based on the patch information (Col. 16 and 27, lines 65 – 67 and 40 – 64; respectively, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 6, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component management device, wherein said client retrieves the desired hardware and

firmware related electronic information component based on meta-information (Col. 96, lines 12 – 20, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 7, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component management device according, wherein said management unit sends a notice of revision to said client via said network when a hardware and firmware related electronic information component already stored in said storage unit is revised and sends a notice of new registration to said client via said network when a new hardware and firmware related electronic information component is registered in said storage unit (Col. 20, lines 44 – 48 and 57 – 59, Van Huben), and wherein said client accesses said desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component at an arbitrary timing after said client receives the notice of revision or the notice of new registration (Col. 87, lines 55 – 62, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 8, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component management device, wherein said management unit conducts communications related to a development consignment of said product with a development maker side client placed in an external development maker and connected thereto via said network (Col. 6 and 7, lines 64 – 67 and 1 – 3; respectively, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 9, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component development data management a device comprising:

a storage unit storing hardware and firmware development data, including design, manufacture and inspection data, generated to constitute a product, as a component development knowledge database, wherein said hardware and said firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the inspection data, (Fig. 101, and 102, Col. 1, 6, and 7, and 13, lines 21 – 26, 64 – 67, 1 – 3, and 30 – 42; respectively, Van Huben) constituting said product are at a same management level (Col. 18, lines 9 – 16, Van Huben); and

a management unit managing the component development knowledge database by controlling a process of a client accessing the hardware and firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the inspection data from said storage unit via a network (Col. 6 and 7, lines 58 – 61 and 8 – 16; respectively, Van Huben), and conducting communications for getting a permission of quotation of a catalog of parts constituting said product based upon the hardware and firmware development data, including the design, the manufacture and the inspection data (Col. 15 and 54, lines 6 – 20 and 54 – 65; respectively, Van Huben), with an author side client placed in the author side issuing the catalog and registering the catalog as a database in said storage unit when the management unit gets the permission (Col. 104, lines 30 – 36, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 10, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a computer-readable recording medium recording a component management program controlling a computer according to a process comprising:

storing hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a hardware and firmware component knowledge database, each hardware and firmware related electronic information component being electronic information generated during processes including design, development, manufacture, and inspection, of a product (Fig. 101, and 102, Col. 1, 6, and 7, and 13, lines 21 – 26, 64 – 67, 1 – 3, and 30 – 42; respectively, Van Huben),

wherein the hardware and firmware related electronic information components include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract for the product, as the electronic information (Fig. 102, Col. 17 and 18, lines 65 – 67 and 1 – 16; respectively, "it resumes at the same Engineering Level (not the lowest level) in the previous version", Van Huben),

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the design, development, manufacture, and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure (Col. 21, lines 3 – 10, Van Huben) in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware and firmware electronic information

components and added to each hardware and firmware electronic information component (Col. 26 and 28, lines 34 – 41 and 15 – 26; respectively, Van Huben),

wherein the storing comprises storing meta-information according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components (Col. 13 and 21, lines 30 – 42 and 3 – 10; respectively, Van Huben; and Col. 25, lines 25 – 34, Call), and

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting said product are at a same management level (Col. 18, lines 9 – 16, Van Huben);

managing the component knowledge database by controlling a process of a client accessing a desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component from said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta-information (Col. 6 and 7, lines 58 – 61 and 8 – 16; respectively, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 11, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component knowledge system, comprising:

a programmed computer processor controlling the component knowledge system according to a process (Col. 12, lines 16 – 20, Van Huben) comprising:

generating, storing and managing meta-information by treating at same management level varyingly managed and related electronic information components that are hardware and firmware related electronic information generated in processes

including design, development, manufacture, and inspection, of a product (Fig. 101, and 102, Col. 1, 6, and 7, and 13, lines 21 – 26, 64 – 67, 1 – 3, and 30 – 42; respectively, Van Huben) and include at least one of a drawing of a hardware constituting the product, a firmware, a program, a specification, and a contract constituting the product (Fig. 102, Col. 17 and 18, lines 65 – 67 and 1 – 16; respectively, "it resumes at the same Engineering Level (not the lowest level) in the previous version", Van Huben),

wherein said hardware and firmware related electronic information components as a variety of electronic information generated during the processes including the desiqn, development, manufacture, and inspection of the product constitute a hierarchical structure (Col. 21, lines 3 – 10, Van Huben) in which the hardware and firmware related electronic information components are stored according to a numbering system common to both hardware and firmware electronic information components and added to each hardware and firmware electronic information component (Col. 26 and 28, lines 34 – 41 and 15 – 26; respectively, Van Huben), and

wherein the meta-information is stored according to Extensible Markup Language (XML) data expressing the hierarchical structure of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components (Col. 13 and 21, lines 30 – 42 and 3 – 10; respectively, Van Huben; and Col. 25, lines 25 – 34, Call), and

controlling a process of a client accessing a desired hardware and firmware related electronic information component from said hardware and firmware related electronic information components constituting the hierarchical structure based on the meta-information (Col. 6 and 7, lines 58 – 61 and 8 – 16; respectively, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 14, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component management system, wherein patch information of each firmware electronic information component is included as a subclass in the numbering system (Col. 16 and 28, lines 65 – 67 and 33 – 37; respectively, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 15, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component management system, wherein the XML data comprises destination information of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components (Col. 36, lines 20 – 33, Van Huben).

Regarding Claim 16, the combination of Van Huben in view of Call discloses a component management system, wherein the XML data comprises new and revised design notice information of the hardware and firmware related electronic information components (Col. 87, lines 55 – 63, Van Huben).

Prior Art Made Of Record

1. Van Huben et al. (US Patent No. 5,826,265, filed: December 6, 1998).

2. Call (US Patent No. 6,154,738, filed: May 21, 1999).

Points Of Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Giovanna Colan whose telephone number is (571) 272-2752. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Giovanna Colan
Examiner
Art Unit 2162
January 11, 2007

Sana Al-Hashemi